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The HEADQUARTERS HOUSE

Ticonderoga, New York

The Headquarters House of the

NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

TICONDEROGA, N. Y.

BY

CLIFFORD L. LORD, *Director*

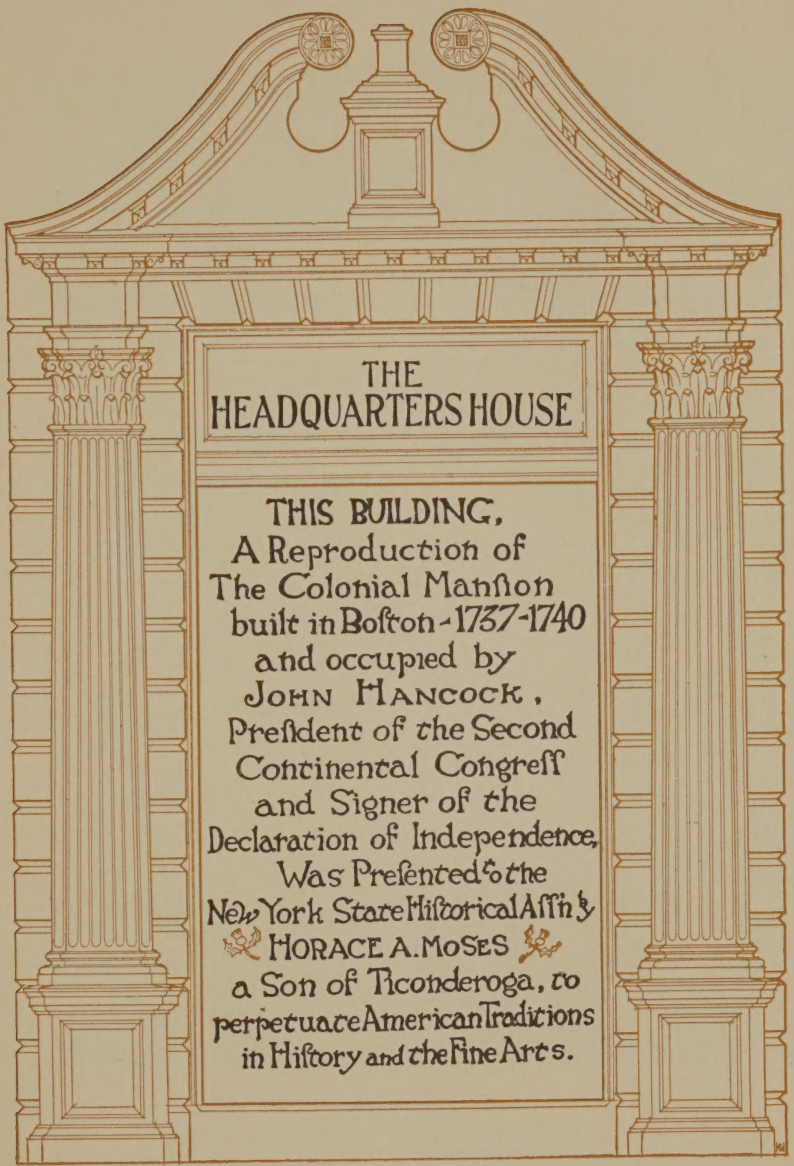
AND

JANE LAPE, *Curator*

TICONDEROGA, NEW YORK, 1943

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The compilers of this booklet are indebted to the article "The John Hancock House" by Elizabeth A. Tower, published by the Association in 1926, for some of the material here included.


THE
HEADQUARTERS HOUSE
THIS BUILDING,
A Reproduction of
The Colonial Mansion
built in Boston - 1737-1740
and occupied by
JOHN HANCOCK,
President of the Second
Continental Congress
and Signer of the
Declaration of Independence,
Was Presented to the
New York State Historical Ass'n by
HORACE A. MOSES
a Son of Ticonderoga, to
perpetuate American Traditions
in History and the Fine Arts.



The Headquarters House, State Historical Association *Ticonderoga, New York*

THE HEADQUARTERS HOUSE

Ticonderoga, New York

THE preservation of records of the Yorkers of the past, their toil, their tribulations, and their triumphs, is one of the most pleasant functions of the New York State Historical Association. It uses these records of our cultural heritage to help modern Yorkers, young and old, both to appreciate the foundations which others have laid for them, and to enrich their minds with the inspiration which close contact with the achievements of the past so surely offers. To implement this program the Association now has quarters at Ticonderoga and Cooperstown and hopes ultimately to establish a series of such houses or quarters in various parts of the State. These will serve both as centers for the preservation and presentation of our living heritage and as depositories for the historical materials of the various sections they represent. *The Headquarters House*, a reproduction of the Boston mansion of John Hancock, was the first of these units established by the Association.

The choice of Ticonderoga as a museum location was indeed a logical one, for the village is located directly on "La Chute," the river or creek which connects Lake George and Lake Champlain, at the heart of a section rich in the historical lore of our state and nation. The "Northern Gateway," as the section was called, is exactly that, for control of the easily accessible water routes to Canada meant control of the entire northeastern part of this country. The geographical location of Ticonderoga and its fort made it the key to this gateway.

The Headquarters House was erected in 1926 and presented to the Association by Horace A. Moses, a native son of Ticonderoga, to further the interest of the people of northeastern New York and the Lake Champlain and Lake George valleys in history and the fine arts. After careful consideration the house was constructed as a



The Lower Hall

replica of the famous John Hancock home which stood on Beacon Street in Boston and which was demolished in 1863 to make room for a new wing of the State House. John Hancock, the Revolutionary patriot, second president of the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence and later Governor of Massachusetts, was a rich Boston merchant and his home was one of the finest of Colonial mansions. The original house was erected in 1737 by Hancock's uncle, Thomas, and was a "wonder-house" in its day. The stone trim was contracted for in the "tenth year of the reign of George the Second" with one Thomas Johnson of Middletown, Connecticut. Undoubtedly, many figures of prominence in the early history of the Champlain Valley well knew the original Hancock House and its hospitable hosts.

Among the reasons why this building was chosen, were the facts that it represented a splendid specimen of Georgian architecture, that it could be faithfully executed from the measured drawings made by John Sturgis before the original was destroyed, and it would be fireproof. The exterior has been carefully copied, built of Weymouth granite, as was the Boston house. Atmospheric and weather conditions have a happy effect on this stone, producing the illusion that the color tones of the building change, sometimes assuming a cast of green, again rose and at other times only a deep and very warm gray, adding to its charm for its many friends who come back to see it year after year.

The same care and faithful attention to correct detail in reproducing the original house has been used in the interior, especially in the main hall and stairway and in the two rooms to the right of the hall, which are exact duplicates of those in the earlier Hancock House. An interesting feature of these rooms is the color scheme. Contrary to the popular belief that everything colonial



THE MOSES ANVIL, 1632

Reputedly the Oldest Known Industrial Implement to Survive from Early Colonial Days

should be painted white, gray was a very popular finish in these early days, and the walls and woodwork of these rooms are finished in an off-tone gray that is in the best eighteenth century American taste.

When first opened, the quarters were furnished with authentic replicas of furniture of the period, made from originals in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the course of time, through the generosity and enthusiasm of members and friends of the Association and the efforts of its officers, a good share of these replicas have been replaced by originals, and this, of course, adds greatly to the authenticity and charm of the place.

Visitors enter the main hall and immediately face the magnificent staircase which is unusual in that it has three different designs of spindle used on each step, with intricately carved newel posts. On the stair landing is a tall case clock made by George Miller of Germantown and bearing on the brass dial an engraved likeness of General James Wolfe. This clock is one of a collection belonging to Mrs. E. D. C. Wiley of Ticonderoga. The main hallway extends to the rear of the building and is dominated by a wall map by Ernest Clegg of the Lake Champlain and Lake George battlefields. Below this map is a Duncan Phyfe sofa of the early 1800's and two small mahogany straight chairs of the same period, belonging to the famous collection, formerly housed at Roger's Rock Club. Two Phyfe stools, the gift of Grace Glenwood Higginson of Cold Spring, New York, are on either side of the doors at the rear. Opposite the registration desk is a portrait of Horace A. Moses painted by Ercole Cartotto. It was Mr. Moses, donor of the building, who made it possible for the Association to display during his lifetime the anvil, hammer and tongs which have been in the Moses family since 1632 and which are said to be the oldest known industrial implements in the country.



The Governor Hancock Room

To the left of the hallway is the library of the Association where ample work facilities are provided. The library consists of some seven thousand volumes principally on New York State. It is especially strong in material on the Lake Champlain, Lake George and Adirondack sections. The books do not circulate but are carefully catalogued and are available to the public for use in the building. There is always an attendant at hand to assist with any research. An interesting item in this room is a tall case clock made by the Waterbury Clock Company, another piece from the Roger's Rock Club collection. Behind the library are the offices.

The two rooms to the right of the entrance are the drawing room and the back parlor. The flooring here, as in all the other rooms of the house, is of wide quartered oak boards, brass studded. The drawing room is furnished with two Philadelphia wing chairs upholstered in rose brocatelle and a sofa of the same design. This sofa is a copy of the one that stood in the President's mansion in Philadelphia when that city was our national capital. On each side of the sofa is a fine Chippendale card table. The beautiful Bombé or kettle-drum desk which stands against the further wall is a copy of the one that George Washington used in the Craigie Mansion in Cambridge when he went there to take command of the Continental troops. It is easily one of the loveliest pieces in the house. Over the fireplace hangs a portrait of Lord Jeffrey Amherst, soldier of the King, and British captor of the fort in 1759, painted by Joseph Blackburn and presented to the Association by Herbert L. Pratt. A Philadelphia pie crust table, two tables by Duncan Phyfe, one a loan from the Metropolitan Museum, the other from the Higginson group, and several Chippendale straight chairs complete the furnishings of the room.



THE MAIN HALL, SECOND FLOOR, WITH ITS SCENIC WALLPAPER

From a rare old print—Dutch gabled houses downtown—prim, rectangular English houses uptown—New York in 1716

In the back parlor are a Chippendale double chair-back settee and a slant front desk (1780-1790) from the Roger's Rock collection. The desk is a fine piece with the exception of its brasses, which sometime in its history have been replaced. A Chippendale card table, a Phyfe table from the Higginson collection, and several more Chippendale straight chairs are placed about the room. Over the Phyfe table is a Republic mirror loaned by the Metropolitan Museum. Two portraits of Henry Haldane and his wife, Fanny Heustis Haldane,* add an intimate and appropriate touch to the room.

On ascending to the second floor one is immediately impressed by the handsome gray scenic wallpaper. This interesting paper was designed from a rare old print in the possession of the New-York Historical Society.** It shows New York harbor as it appeared in 1716 from the Brooklyn shore, and offers interesting glimpses of shipping activity and of the architectural style which already showed the growth of the future metropolis from early Dutch days. The furniture in this upper hallway consists of two fine Chippendale arm chairs, a Chippendale highboy from the Roger's Rock Club, and a mahogany block front desk on loan from the Metropolitan Museum. On this floor is the museum room, one side lined with glass cases in which varying exhibits are shown. In the center of the room are other cases for special exhibits. Against the wall is a mahogany spinet made by Robert and William Nunns, dated about 1820 and belonging to the Roger's Rock Club. There are two other items from this collection in the

*Henry and Fanny Haldane were members of a prominent Colonial family of Cold Spring, New York, and the grandparents of Mary Haldane Haldane, a trustee of the Association from 1911 until her death at Cold Spring in 1926.

**Print title: *A South Prospect of Ye Flourishing City of New York in the Province of New York in America*, published 1719-21; William Burgis, artist; I. Harris, engraver.



Straight-Back Chair
with split spindles



Corner Cupboard (1740-1750)
—Roger's Rock Club Collection

room. One is the impressive old beaufatt or corner cupboard (1740-1750). This is a very rare piece, for while such cupboards were extremely popular throughout New England, very few in this design survive. The other is the small black, straight-backed chair with a caned seat. An interesting feature of this chair is the use of split spindles. They were flattened where the user's back would touch them and left round otherwise.

A Dutch cupboard or *kas*, of a type used extensively in the seventeenth century, is an interesting reminder of the Dutch background of much of the Hudson Valley section of the State. A cane bottomed wagon chair, put into the farm wagon whenever the Colonial family wished to travel any distance, is another souvenir of early luxury. In the further corner of the room is a scale model of the French Fort St. Frédéric once located at Crown Point, together with plans and maps of the fort. This is a loan from the maker, Arthur Hopkins of the New York State Conservation Department. Two other interesting items complete the furnishings of this room. They are the useful armed kitchen rocker and the small cherry cradle.

There are two additional rooms on this floor of the building. One, the bedroom, was furnished entirely by Mrs. Lillian Ford Andrews, of Saratoga Springs, New York, with authentic pieces taken from her own family heirlooms. The pine canopied bed with its accompanying trundle bed and cradle make three fine examples of the family sleeping accommodations used by our forefathers. The floral appliqué quilt on the bed is also from Mrs. Andrews and is worthy of attention. A mahogany secretary is part of the room's furnishings, which also includes a washstand, with bowl and pitcher, a bed warmer, hat boxes, trunks, candlesticks and candle holders. The other room is the dining room with a Sheraton table and chairs



KEARSING SPINNET — *Gift of Dr. & Mrs. C. Gray Capron*



SHERATON SIDEBOARD — *Roger's Rock Club Collection*

loaned by the Metropolitan Museum, a corner cupboard and a Sheraton sideboard from the Roger's Rock Club collection and a mahogany spinet made by John Kearsing of London about 1826, the latter the gift of Dr. and Mrs. C. Gray Capron of Utica, New York. A kidney sewing table over which hangs a Queen Anne mirror, and a mahogany wine cooler lined with lead and complete with bottles, one an 1815 Cognac bottle "imported and sold by A. Bininger & Co., 92 & 94 Liberty Street, New York," are interesting pieces again loaned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

From this room visitors ascend to the third floor or attic of the building. Here are the displays of the early farm and craft implements and materials which kindle anew an appreciation of the life of the average Yorker, who lived and worked in a humbler style than did John Hancock. First is a spinning and weaving exhibit, complete with coverlets, wool and flax, cards, hetchels, swifts, flax and wool wheels, shuttles, reels, looms, and to carry the story still further, several early sewing machines. Next is a display of early kitchen implements, such as knives, forks, wooden plates and pitchers, cheese boxes and coffee mills. The next booth contains travel necessities, such as saddle bags, carpet bags, trunks and an especially rare saddle keg for transporting "spirits." The cobbler's bench, complete with various sized shoe lasts and boot forms, tools, wooden pegs, boot jacks and leather, gives an idea of the work necessary to provide footwear in early days. Another vital necessity was light, and since candles were universally used, a complete collection including the kettle for melting tallow, sticks on which to hang wicks, molds and a rack for hand dipping are shown. Another exhibit shows farm equipment such as a bull rake, ox yokes, bench for shoeing horses, cradle, cant hooks, harnesses and collars and a large variety of axes, hammers, and such small tools. Next we come to the



Section of Third Floor

dairy equipment with skimmers, churns, butter bowls, prints and an outfit for making cheese including baskets, cheese press, ladders and boxes for storage. More kitchen utensils follow, including a late Dutch oven, plate warmer, numerous kettles, irons, toasters, sausage guns and apple parers.

The center of the floor space is occupied by two old sleighs. One is a Dutch "pung" made in 1789 for Robert Heustis of Cold Spring, Putnam County, on the Hudson River. It was used by the descendants of the family in the fourth generation, and was given by his great granddaughter, Mrs. F. J. Higginson of Cold Spring. The other is an elaborate two-seated sleigh with a raised coachman's seat of the type used in the latter part of the nineteenth century and was loaned by the Ticonderoga Pulp and Paper Company. It was manufactured (c. 1875) by Golder & Post, carriage makers in Newark, New Jersey, from 1842 to 1887. A perambulator, more than a century old, made by the Wilder Carriage Works of Troy, New York, in 1831, is an unusual exhibit on this floor.

In the basement floor of the house is the vault for the safe storage of valuable files and manuscripts. Here are manuscripts of Phillip Skene, the order of Sir William Johnson for the care of the captive Major-General Baron Dieskau, and the regional newspaper collection. On one side is the assembly room with its slide projector and movie machine for either Association or community use, and paintings of Judge James A. Roberts, the Association's first president, who held that office for thirteen years, Dr. Frederick B. Richards, longtime pillar and officer of the Association, and Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox, president of the Association since 1929. At the opposite end is the stack room for the extension of library material. The lower hall is occupied by a series of cases enclosing a collection of signatures of governors of New York State acquired

through the kindness of Stephen H. P. Pell. Also in the lower hall are two rare pieces of furniture. One is a mahogany desk that has been in the Arthur family for over two hundred years and was deposited by Roma Arthur of Wright, New York. The other is a Queen Anne highboy, a loan from the Metropolitan Museum.

Hanging throughout the building is a series of portraits of New York State governors. This series was commissioned and executed for the City of Albany through the term of Charles Evans Hughes. Since Governor Hughes' days, the Herbert H. Lehman and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt portraits have been added through anonymous gifts to the Association.

The museum and library are open to the public from 9:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. throughout the year with the exception of Saturday afternoon and Sunday. During the months of July and August the house is kept open on these two days in addition, Sunday hours being from 10:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m.

The visitor may wonder at the scarcity of military materials in the building, when the history of Ticonderoga and its vicinity has been so closely connected with the century of wars between England and France, the American Revolution and the War of 1812. Needless to say, no matter how large war may bulk in the history of any locality, the life of the people of the region is only periodically afflicted and deranged by such events. The normal life of the area itself goes on, and it is a fixed policy of the Association, that, with the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, its fine collections on the military history of the section and its splendid library and manuscript files so near, we limit ourselves at *The Headquarters House* to stressing the social and economic history of northeastern New Yorkers. Our main interests are in the collection and

safe-keeping of manuscripts, which give first hand information of past events; of early newspapers, for they reflect much of the social and business life of their period; of clothing and household or craft implements or furniture, for they tell the tale of our forefather's homes.

Suggestions for the acquisition of material along these lines will be deeply appreciated. Gifts or loans of appropriate articles are welcomed and may be arranged through the director of the Association or the curator of *The Headquarters House*.



Association Membership

Membership in the State Historical Association is open to anyone interested in New York history. Dues are three dollars a year or fifty dollars for life. Members receive the quarterly magazine *New York History* and the quarterly *Bulletin*. They are admitted without charge to the Association's Headquarters House at Ticonderoga, its Central Quarters and Farmers Museum at Cooperstown, and to all lectures and other special functions of the Association, including the annual meeting. They have the satisfactions which come with closer contacts with like-minded people and with the support of an active program of public service such as that which the Association carries on throughout the State. Applications for membership should be addressed to the Director, State Historical Association, Cooperstown, New York.

Van Buren County Library
Decatur, Michigan

The HF Group
Indiana Plant
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